

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Poland
SUBJECT Blood Donations

REPORT

DATE DISTR. 18 September 1953

NO. OF PAGES 1

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

50X1-HUM

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1. The organization of propaganda for blood donations belongs to the Polish Red Cross, which publishes pamphlets, organizes lectures, and visual propaganda (posters stressing the social and personal advantages, etc.). The Health Service personnel trade union (ZZPSZ) spreads the idea among its own members, supplies lecturers, and organizes specialists' courses for senior medical students and for doctors.
2. Aside from the central blood banks (e.g. at the Red Cross in Gdansk-Wrzeszcz (Danzig-Langfuhr), ul. Grunwaldzka) every larger hospital has its own small blood stocks of the various blood groups. Maternity clinics and hospital wings began a year ago to make use of blood from the placenta for blood storage; this blood is sent to the blood banks.
3. The number of blood donors has recently increased due to general poverty and the chance thereby of earning additional income from blood donations. The blood donors are mostly recruited from among the 500 to 900 sloty-per-month wage groups (nurses, drivers, intellectual workers and their wives), and also from among people with large families.
4. A single portion of blood taken at one time is 300 to 500 cc, depending on the wish of the donor and on his physical condition. Blood is donated at two to three week intervals. Remuneration is based on the cost of the food required to restore to the donor the value of the blood donated. The government is laying great stress on the campaign for blood donations and keeps appealing to the patriotic feelings of the people and to their willingness to help their neighbors. The people on the whole approve of the campaign, although they generally think that the price paid for their blood is too low and that the government can recruit paid donors only by lowering wages and raising the cost of living.

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